

Health Resources Network, the Wyoming Small Business Development Center, and CLIMB Wyoming. Her work with CLIMB Wyoming is of special significance. CLIMB is a unique nonprofit empowering single mothers to develop life and career skills. This holistic program helps these women start new careers and ultimately become self-sufficient.

Wendy's accomplishments speak for themselves. She views herself as a humble public servant. Still, her impact on health care in Wyoming cannot be understated and will be recognized for years to come.

Finally, I must conclude my remarks by recognizing the most important people in Wendy's life, her family. Her late husband Denny was a good friend and an outstanding journalist. His passing in 2012 was a tremendous loss. I know he is looking down on Wendy, their three children, Katie, Laura, and Tim, and granddaughter Lillian, with pride today.

Wendy and I have been personal friends for nearly four decades. She represents the best of Wyoming in every sense of the word. One could not have a better friend than Wendy Curran.

The people of Wyoming are fortunate to have Wendy Curran serve our State for so many years. She is a leader, mentor, and advocate to many, especially women working in health care. Bobbi and I are proud to call her our friend. Wendy will be missed in retirement, but I know she will continue to find meaningful ways to serve and to make Wyoming a better place for everyone. Thank you, Wendy, for your committed and dedicated service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO OLIVIA VAN LEDTJE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Olivia Van Ledtje of Durham as March's Granite Stater of the Month. Olivia, a 12-year-old book activist, creates videos—called LivBits—that seek to encourage children around the globe to love books as much as she does.

Olivia began creating LivBits when she was 8 years old as a way to overcome bullying that she experienced. The videos gave Olivia a purpose and allowed her to find her voice.

Olivia's first video, which was uploaded to her mother's social media, went viral and has more than 500,000 views. Since then, Olivia has created many more LivBits about some of her favorite books and even hosted a podcast with authors as a way to get children her age excited about reading.

Over the last few years, Olivia has travelled across the country and around the world to promote her love of reading and inspire others. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Olivia hasn't been travelling as much, but because her work is built for the digital age,

she is still able to share her message with children and teachers around the globe.

Olivia's passion for and dedication to promoting literacy and inspiring children in New Hampshire and around the world to love reading represents the best of our State. By promoting self-reliance and self-empowerment through discovery and learning, I know that she will continue to do incredible things, and I look forward to everything she will go on to accomplish.●

TRIBUTE TO STELLA LAVADIE

• Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and share the inspirational story of native New Mexican Ms. Stella Lavadie, who celebrated her 100th birthday on April 29, 2021. Her friends, family, and neighbors know Stella as a warm-hearted woman who celebrates her veteran community with great pride and has lived a remarkable and impactful life. A member of the "greatest generation," Stella was born in 1921 in Taos, and while she grew up partially in Wyoming, she returned to New Mexico as a young adult to attend my alma mater, New Mexico Highlands University. In a pivotal moment, Stella recalls seeing Uncle Sam on signs in Albuquerque beckoning her: "I want you!" they said, and she answered the call. Stella enlisted for the Women's Army Corps in 1944 at the Bruns Army Hospital in Santa Fe and trained at Fort Des Moines. Taking great pride in her fatigues and dress uniform, Stella completed duty stations in Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Dakota. Stella completed her service in 1946 when the war was won, but she has said she would gladly have stayed in the Women's Army Corps if given the chance.

Throughout her life, Stella has carried with her meaningful memories from her service, including fellow Women Army Corps member Ruby Hart singing "Till we meet again" and marching in formation every Saturday morning in front of the ranking officers. Upon returning home to New Mexico, Stella continued her Federal service working at the University of California in Los Alamos, then at the Atomic Energy Commission also in Los Alamos, before rounding out her career with a combined 32 years at the Bureau of Land Management doing essential work contributing to the management of New Mexico's Federal lands. She raised three children as a single mother in the 1950s, due to her husband's early death, and built a beautiful family in her own home State of New Mexico.

I want to personally wish Stella a happy 100th birthday and thank her for her service and barrier-breaking accomplishments. In 2015, I had the pleasure of greeting Stella on her visit to D.C. on Honor Flight No. 0615, and I was honored to celebrate her birthday in a drive-by celebration this year.

Stella, thank you for your service, and it is an honor to play a small part in your story.●

TRIBUTE TO BENNIE MONTOKA

• Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and share the inspirational story of native New Mexican Mr. Bennie Montoya, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on August 20, 2021. Bennie is a member of the "greatest generation," and his heroism and courage-filled life are an inspiration to us all.

Bennie was raised near Santa Fe in the Village of Agua Fria as the youngest of six siblings. After finishing the ninth grade at Harrington Junior High in Santa Fe, Bennie left school to help his family on their ranch, until he was drafted in August 1942. Bennie trained at Fort Bliss in El Paso, TX, prior to shipping out for Normandy to serve his country at one of the most significant battle sites in U.S. military history. At 23 years old, Private First Class Montoya landed in Normandy 6 days after D-day, and to this day, he recalls the bloodied waters and fallen soldiers from the momentous battle.

During the war, he worked as a switchboard operator and also had the responsibility of driving his commanding officer from post to post. On December 17, 1944, when Private First Class Montoya volunteered to drive a senior military officer to the next post, he was ambushed by German soldiers and taken prisoner. As a prisoner of war, Bennie was forced to dig graves for Nazi soldiers who were killed in action. He was often made to do hard labor in the freezing snow with no shoes and suffered frostbite while under their abuse.

Private First Class Montoya was finally liberated in 1945 and sent to a POW rehabilitation and recovery center in Santa Barbara, CA. Honorably discharged, Bennie made his way back to New Mexico unbeknownst to his family. The story of his homecoming speaks to the power of prayer and the bond between family members. His mother, as told by others with her on that day, kept a prayer card to St. Anthony, the patron saint of lost people and things in her pocket. As she was cooking and praying, she was overcome with emotion. What followed was nothing less than a joyous reunion: Bennie's mother stepped outside to collect herself and continued praying, and when she looked up and gazed across the fields, she saw Bennie walking towards her, duffel bag in tow.

Bennie has lived a full and meaningful life since his time in the Army. Upon his honorable discharge, he was awarded several medals, including a Purple Heart. He raised four children in Agua Fria with his wife, Mary, before losing her to a drunk driver. Professionally, Bennie worked in the local banking industry for 27 years. He still lives in Agua Fria, where he is an upstanding and highly regarded member